CHIPPED AND FLAKED IMPLEMENTS OF NEW BRUNSWICK

By William McIntosh

Reprinted from the Bulletin of the Natural History Society of New Brunswick
No. XXXI (Vol. VII) 1913

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ARTICLE II.

CHIPPED AND FLAKED IMPLEMENTS OF NEW BRUNSWICK.

By William McIntosh.

This article is the second of a series of short papers intended to briefly describe and illustrate the New Brunswick Stone Age material in the Museum of the Natural History Society of New Brunswick.

The Society has been fortunate in having as members, Dr. L. W. Bailey, Dr. Geo. F. Matthew, the late S. W. Kain, Prof. W. F. Ganong, David Balmain and Duncan London. These gentlemen have either contributed articles on New Brunswick archaeology or presented specimens to the collection in the Museum. Many others who have found Indian relics in various parts of the Province have generously donated them to this Society.

During the past four years, the curator, assisted by some of the members, has spent a part of each summer in archaeological research. The specimens which have accumulated from these various sources now number several thousand.

The collection is especially valuable because we have a record of where almost every specimen was found, as well as the collector's name.

The aboriginal implements of New Brunswick have a wide range in origin and use. In a broad way, they may be classed as chipped forms of stone, pecked or polished stone, earthenware or clay articles, implements and ornaments of bone, ivory, horn and shell, and those of wood and bark. In this article, only the chipped and flaked stone implements will be considered. Of these, the Museum possesses nearly one thousand examples, the larger number of which are the flaked blades usually classed as arrow and spear heads.

Arrow and Spearheads.—It is difficult to precisely classify these, as it is now known that many of the so-called arrow and spear heads were used as knives, drills and scrapers. A number of arrow-like forms in the collection are so bent or one-sided that they could not be thrown or shot with precision. It is quite reasonable to suppose that an arrow might be used as a knife or scraper, and we have abundant proof to confirm this. An early writer speaking of western arrow-points, says, "If no knife is at hand, they use them also to skin the animals they have killed." Until very recently a number of western tribes employed as knives blades of chipped stone, identical in form with what are usually called arrow and spear heads. They are used inserted in short bone or wooden handles.

The writer has been unable to find any mention of stone-headed spears in the early accounts of contemporary European historians or in the Indian legends of this locality. On the other hand, we find the bone harpoon or spear and the stone knife frequently spoken of in history and legend. It is possible the larger blades were more generally used as knives, rather than as spear heads.

In the flaked blades of New Brunswick are found nearly all the common American types and the workmanship compares favourably with the stone work of other eastern American peoples.

The materials of which these articles are made are nearly all found in the Province. Many of the finest specimens are of felsite, or red jasper, small boulders of which are found on the shores of the lakes and rivers of central New Brunswick, probably washed out of the carboniferous conglomerates. On many camp sites, these boulders, both broken and whole, occur in such numbers as to leave little doubt they have been brought to the place by the prehistoric implement maker.

About sixty-two specimens, including some of the smallest arrowheads in the collection, are made of milky quartz which is common in many parts of New Brunswick. A number of these implements are made of chalcedony and carnelian, chips and fragments of which are found on many camp sites. Much

Punch for LP New Brunswick Museum $1.00

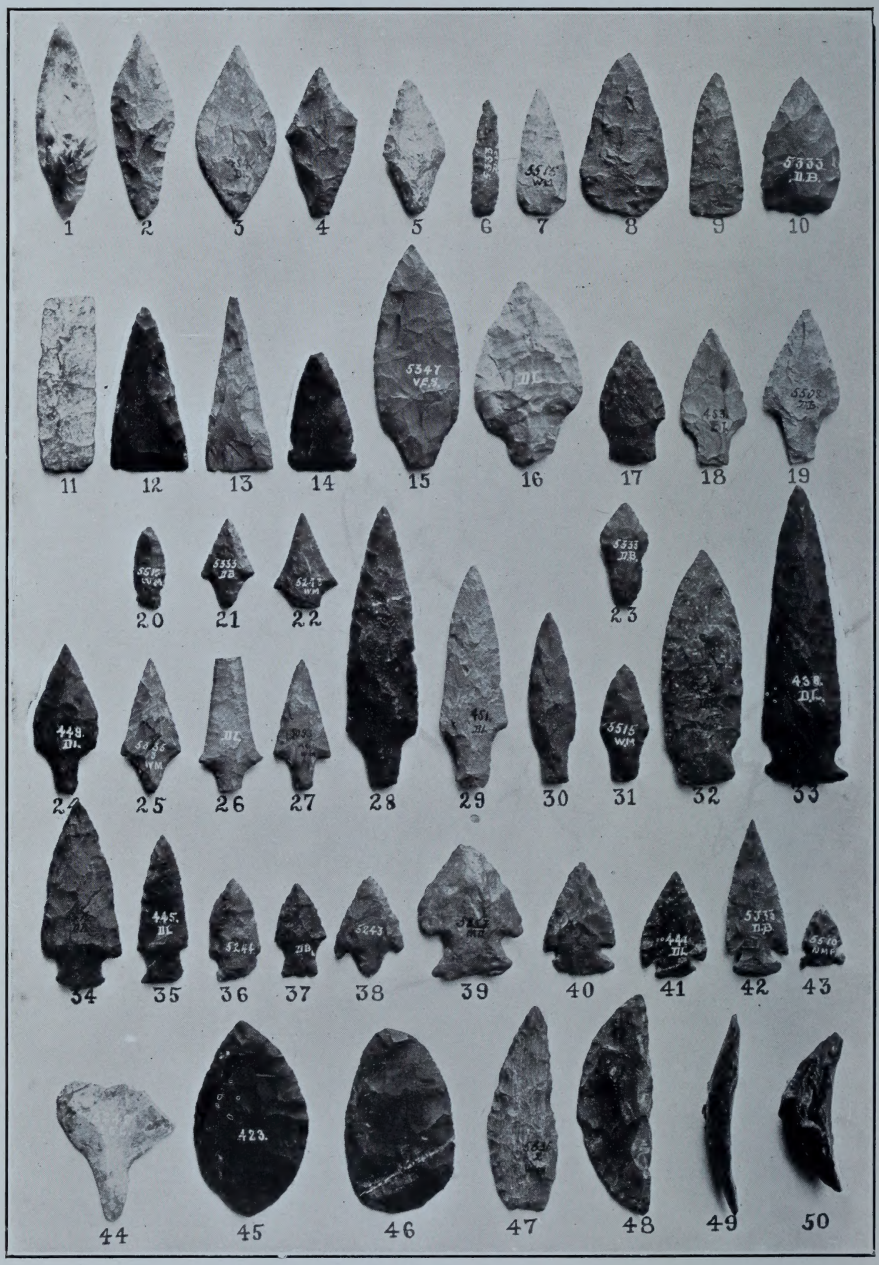

PLATE I.

of this material was probably obtained at the aboriginal quarry on the south side of Washademoak Lake, described by Dr. G. F. Matthew.*

On the plates accompanying this article are shown types of the flaked blades found in New Brunswick. On Plate I none of the specimens illustrated are over four and three-quarters inches in length.

A very large number of implements in the collection may be described as leaf-shaped. Examples are shown in Plate I, Figs. 6-10, and Plate II, Figs. 1-7. They range in length from one and three-eighths to eight and five-eighths inches. In this group we find nearly all the larger stone blades, and some of these are beautiful examples of the aboriginal implement maker's art.

Figs. 1-3 are leaf-shaped blades pointed at both ends. The collection includes twelve examples of this type ranging in length from one and three-quarters to six and one-quarter inches. Fig. 1 is a fine specimen of quartz, three and one-eighth inches in length, probably used as a knife.

Fig. 2, of felsite. The specimen is typical of this class, eight of the twelve points in this group being similar to it in outline.

Fig. 3, felsite, a slightly broader form. Only twelve lozenge-shaped blades (Figs. 4 and 5) are in the collection and these grade into the next group.

Fig. 11 shows part of a long, narrow blade with straight, parallel edges two and three-quarters inches in length. The collection contains fourteen broken specimens of this type, all found in central New Brunswick. They are made of felsite; the rock is probably local.

Figs. 12-13 show types of the triangular blades found in New Brunswick. The twelve specimens in the collection grade into the forms shown in Figs. 9 and 10. The base in each is thin and chisel-like but shows no evidence of having been used as a chisel. Four are of milky quartz, one of jasper, and four of felsite.

*Royal Society of Canada, Proc. and Trans. 2nd series, Vol. 6, Sec. 4, p. 61.

The collection does not contain specimens of triangular equilateral arrow points so common in some sections.

Fig. 14.—A point differing little from the preceding one, except that it is notched. This form is of rare occurrence.

Fig. 15-31 show a number of shouldered blades,—310 specimens or nearly one-half the blades in the collection belong to this class. They occur in a great variety of material, finish and size, and are the common "arrow and spear heads" of the region.

Fig. 15 is thin and finely finished, found near French Lake on the Oromocto River. It is three and five-eighths inches in length. The material is gray felsite.

Fig. 16.—A short, heavy, well-made blade of gray banded felsite, strongly suggestive of the heavy stone spear-heads used by the Eskimo and not at all common in this region.

Fig. 17, 18, 19, 24, are typical specimens of a common form, showing slight differences in length, breadth and proportion of parts.

Fig. 20 is one of the smallest points in the collection, one and one-quarter inches in length.

Fig. 21 is a finely proportioned arrow-head of an unusual shape, from Indian Point.

Fig. 22.—A beautiful arrow-head from central New Brunswick. The edges are concave and the point very sharp. A portion of the stem is missing.

Fig. 23.—The collection contains nine short, thick arrow-points in which the stem is longer than the head. They are all from the lake region of central New Brunswick.

Fig. 25 is much like Fig. 21 in outline, but thicker. The collection contains eight specimens. This form gradually merges into preceding and succeeding forms.

Fig. 26.—One of the most beautiful arrow-heads in the collection. Although broken, it is remarkable for its symmetry of outline and fine flaking. It is a beautiful example of the aboriginal stone-worker's art. Found at Maquapit Lake.

Fig. 27.—Is representative of one of the most common forms, which vary greatly in size. The specimen figured is exactly two inches in length.

Fig. 28.—One of the largest shouldered blades in the collection, four and one-half inches in length. It is a translucent, silicious sandstone, amber coloured at the point, and carnelian red at the base. The colours blend one into the other, producing a blade of unusual beauty.

Fig. 29 is three and one-half inches in length, of light gray felsite.

Fig. 30.—A very slender example from Grand Lake.

Fig. 31.—Is broader and shorter, a variation of Fig. 17, and one of the very common types.

Figs. 32-37 show examples of notched blades found in New Brunswick. The collection contains sixty-one specimens which belong to this class. They vary much in size and form.

Fig. 32 is very much like Fig. 15 in outline and size, but a much heavier blade, six and three-quarter inches in length, and is made of compact volcanic rock.

Fig. 33.—This is a well made implement of red jasper, four and three quarter inches in length. This and the preceding specimen were found at Maquapit Lake and are unique.

Figs. 34-37.—Are typical of this class of blade, and almost every possible variation within the limits shown by these four figures occur.

Figs. 38-42 show types of barbed arrow-heads found in the Province, the collection containing twenty-one examples. Some of these are beautifully made and are not surpassed by any flaked implements found in eastern North America.

Fig. 38 is an unusual form of which this is the only example. It is one and five-eighths inches in length, of compact silicious sandstone.

Fig. 39.—This blade is unique. It was found on the Jemseg and differs in shape and material from all the arrow-heads in the collection. It is a type common in some Iroquoian areas and it is possible it may have been brought here by a Mohawk war party.

Figs. 40, 41, 42.—Are all from central New Brunswick and are typical of barbed arrow-heads of the region.

Fig. 43 is the only stemmed, notched and barbed arrow-head in the collection. The stem and part of one of the barbs is

missing. It was found on an old camp site at French Lake by Miss Norma Fenton during the past summer. It is one and one-eighth inches in length and is made of gray mottled agate.

Drills or Perforators.—In the Museum are three implements with narrow elongated blades and expanded bases. These are usually spoken of as "drills or perforators." Archaeologists are not agreed upon this point. They may be a peculiar type of arrow-head. Fig. 44 shows the best specimen in the Museum. In New Brunswick we find on camp sites pointed flakes in a variety of sizes and shapes. In many of these the point is worn, showing evidence of having been used for boring. They are not finished implements, simply flakes, which by reason of their pointed shape were suitable for drilling or perforating. They were used until the point was dulled or broken and then thrown aside.

Knives.—It is probable that most of the larger arrow or spear-like blades were used as knives. Le Clercq speaks of the Indians wearing knives suspended from the neck. These were the dagger-like blades used by the men. About the camp, a flake of quartz or felsite served as a temporary knife. Scores of these are found on the old village sites. Well finished, broad, leaf-shaped or oval blades such as are shown in Figs. 45, 46, are found in small numbers. These usually have a finely flaked keen cutting edge. They were probably used by the women, mounted in the same manner as the Ulu or woman's knife of the Eskimo.

Fig. 45 is of red jasper, three and one-eighth inches in length.

Fig. 46.—Brown felsite, three inches long.

Fig. 47.—There are several curved blades in the collection. Possibly these were used as knives. The specimen figured is three and one-quarter inches in length.

Fig. 48.—A handsome, somewhat longer blade. Judging from the specimen it may have been mounted and used as the Eskimo Ulu. It is three inches in length.

Fig. 49.—The collection includes a small number of bent blades. The figure shows a side view of one of these. It is

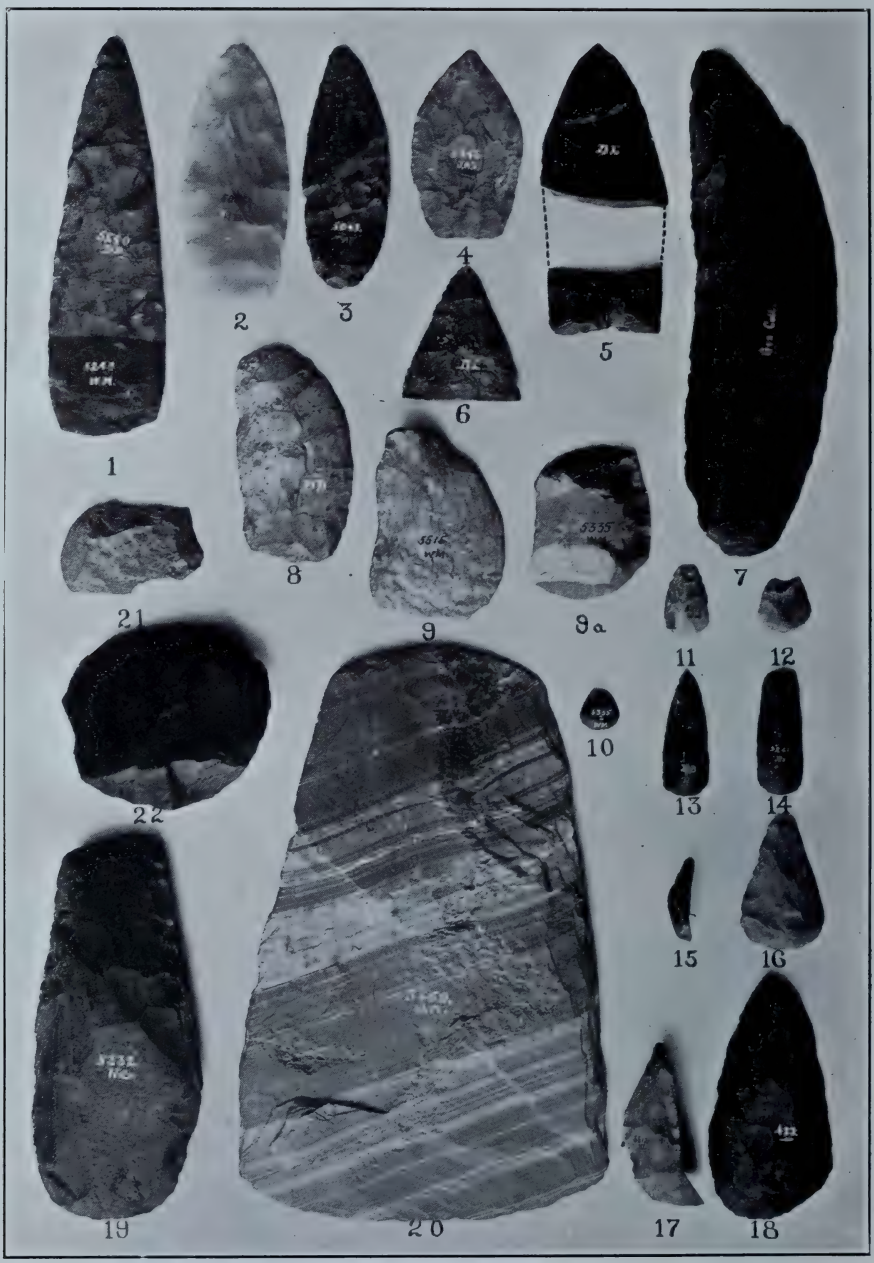

PLATE II.

three and one-quarter inches in length, one and one-quarter inches in width, leaf-shaped, almost exactly like Fig. 1 in outline. Many believe these were used as knives.

Fig. 50.—Side view of a carefully flaked object, two and one-half inches in length, one inch wide, and five-eighths of an inch through. It is almost too sharp at the ends for a scraper but may have been used as one.

Plate II, Fig. 1, is the largest straight blade in the collection, eight and five-eighths inches in length, two and one-half inches in width, one-half inch thick, probably petrosilex. The specimen is broken into five pieces. Four of these were found at Indian Point, Grand Lake, by Mr. David Balmain, about twenty years ago. Sixteen years later, the remaining portion was discovered by the writer who did not at first recognize it as belonging to the blade as the colour was a fresh reddish brown, while the other parts were weathered to a brown gray. The discovery that they were parts of the same blade was made almost by accident.

Fig. 2.—A very beautiful specimen of white semi-translucent quartz, seven and one-half inches long, two and three-eighths inches wide, and one-quarter inch thick. Found in eastern New Brunswick.

Fig. 3 is a remarkably handsome blade of compact volcanic rock, beautifully clouded and spotted. It is two inches wide and five and one-quarter inches in length. From Grand Lake.

Fig. 4, from the Oromocto River, is remarkable for its great width, being two and one-half inches wide and four and one-eighth inches in length, very thin and finely finished. This is the first unbroken specimen of this type which we have obtained. It enables us to recognize as probably belonging to this class a number of points and bases of large blades characterized by their great width, thinness and fine finish. Examples of these are shown in Figs. 5 and 6.

Fig. 7 is the largest flaked blade in the collection, measuring three and one-quarter inches, by eleven and five-eighths inches. It is made of dark red jasper and is a splendid example of aboriginal workmanship. It formed part of the Gesner Collection and was found in New Brunswick. This is all we know of its history.

Fig. 8.—A heavy curved blade, possibly mounted as a Ulu or woman's knife. From central New Brunswick.

Fig. 9.—Not unlike the last in outline, but a much thinner blade. Made from a single large flake, the edge being chipped and worn as through much use. These rudely chipped blades which show evidences of having been used as knives, are very numerous on ancient camp sites. There are about twenty-five or thirty in the collection.

Figs. 9a-18 show some common forms of stone scrapers found in New Brunswick. The collection contains about 127 well made examples. The writer has classed as scrapers those flaked stone implements which are flat or concave on one side and convex on the other, with a rounded end, giving a curved scraping edge. Among the uses of the scraper, that of dressing hides probably took first place. They were also employed in woodwork, sharpening bone implements, scraping roots, etc. It is interesting to note that the Eskimo are using scrapers almost identical with those in our collection. These are mounted in bone and wooden handles. There is no doubt the New Brunswick scrapers were used in the same manner as the Eskimo use them at the present time.

Fig. 9a is a good example of the larger scrapers. The material is a very fine gray sandstone or felsite, two and one-half by three and one-quarter inches. Many scrapers are irregular in outline like this one, but all have well finished cutting edges.

Fig. 10 shows a beautiful little scraper, seven-eighths of an inch in length. One of five found on an old camp site on the Portobello Stream. These five scrapers are made of red jasper and are almost exactly alike in size and appearance. The collection contains about twenty-two of these small, almost circular scrapers.

Figs. 11, 12, and 15 are about one and one-quarter inches in length and are typical of a large number of medium sized scrapers.

Figs. 13 and 14 are beautifully finished implements made of banded red and black jasper-like rock. They are two and three-

quarter inches long, one inch wide, and eleven-sixteenths inches thick. The measurement of both is exactly the same, but, as will be seen by the figures, they differ somewhat in outline. The collection contains nine of these thick, narrow scrapers, and a large number are about the same in width and thickness but shorter.

Fig. 16.—The specimen figured measures two and seven-eighths by seven-eighths by one-half inches. This is a very common type, perhaps nearly one-half the scrapers in the collection being of this broad, thin class.

Fig. 17.—Is a side view of one of the narrow, thick forms, but the specimen is more concave than usual.

Fig. 18 is the largest scraper in the collection, two and three-quarters by five and three-eighths, barely an inch in thickness. It is perfectly flat on one side.

Figs. 11, 16, 18 are all of the same type, proportioned alike, differing only in size.

Fig. 19.—Specimens almost exactly like this have been called hoes or agricultural implements by American archaeologists but the four specimens in our possession show no signs of wear and the writer is of the opinion they are partly finished chipped celts. The collection contains a number of chipped and ground celts much like these.

Fig. 20.—Is an interesting object found by the writer on an old Indian camp site at Washademoak Lake. It is made of light gray slate, beautifully banded with white, is twelve and one-half inches in length, eight and one-quarter inches in width at one end and five and one-quarter at the other and is not more than three-quarters of an inch in thickness. It is carefully chipped, flaked and pecked. It is too thin to be used for heavy work. Upon examination, you feel that the maker intended it for ornament rather than utility, perhaps a gorget or a ceremonial object.

The collection contains a number of objects which do not belong to any of the classes described, one of these is shown in Fig. 21. The end is rounded and beautifully flaked to a smooth cutting edge, it was probably used mounted in a handle.

On almost every ancient camp site are found numbers of rejected fragments or cores from which the prehistoric implement maker has struck the material used in his work, many of these cores or "turtlebacks," are nearly circular and are often mistaken for implements by collectors. A typical example is shown in Fig. 22.

Chipped and Flaked Implements in New Brunswick in the Collection of the Natural History Museum, St. John, N. B., Dec. 10, 1913.

Flaked blades commonly classified as "arrow and spear heads."

Leaf shaped of which Fig. 7, Pl. 1, is the most common form	188
Long narrow " " " 11, " " " " "	14
Triangular " " " 12, " " " " "	12
Lozenge " " " 5, " " " " "	14
Stemmed blades " " 29, " " " " "	310
Notched " " " 35, " " " " "	61
Barbed " " " 42, " " " " "	21
Notched, stemmed and barbed of which Fig. 43, Pl. 1, is the most common form	1
Unclassified	56
Flaked blades Total	677
Scrapers	127
Rough flakes which have probably been used as knives	36
Crude implements Paleolithic in type	60
Miscellaneous including chipped axes	76
	976